

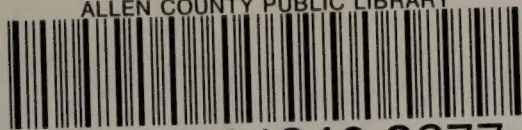
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MARY GAWKROGER

1612 1629 1678

WIFE

OF

JOHN PRESCOTT

OF

LANCASTER

MASSACHUSETTS

1959

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MARY GARDNER

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WIFE

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JOHN PRESCOTT

OF

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THE WAYNE COUNTY CO. IND.

GAWKROGER-PLATTS

By

Clarence A. Torrey

1. RICHARD⁴ GAWKROGER (John³, Richard², John¹) was born probably about 1504-1508, and he was buried 15 Oct. 1570, at Halifax, England. He married, first, Isabella - - -, who was buried 12 Feb. 1559/60. He married, second, Elizabeth - - -. who was mentioned in his will, dated 18 Apr. 1570, and proved 19 Dec. 1570. For an abstract of this will, see the John White Genealogy, volume 4, page 169. In addition to bequests to his wife and children, he gave to "Mye sisters Jhanet Rayner & Agnes Rayner £ 20, each," from which it appears that he was prosperous. For the supervisors of his will he named "my eldest son Richard Gawkroger, Thomas Bates my sonn in lawe & Henrie Waterhouse my fathfull frend & cosine." According to the White Genealogy, he held a half interest in the Haselhurst property in 1547.

Children, probably all born in Sowerby, Halifax:

2. Richard⁵, b. ca. 1535; married 15 June 1562, Joan Gawkroger, bapt. 18 Dec. 1540, at Halifax, the dau. of John and Joan (or Joanna)() Gawkroger: Richard was buried 8 June 1597; his widow was bur. 25 Aug. 1599.
3. John, b. ca. 1538. #
4. James, b. ca. 1540. #
5. George, bapt. 9 Apr. 1542; buried 25 Sept. 1542.
6. Agnes (Annes or Anne), bapt. 21 Jan. 1543/4; m. 15 June 1562, Thomas Bates, who mentioned wife Anne in his will dated 21 Sept. 1583, proved 9 May 1584; he held land by lease from his wife's uncle, John Gawkroger.

7. Elizabeth, bapt. 3 Jan. 1545/6; bur. 12 Jan. 1545/6.
8. Elizabeth, mentioned in her father's will.
9. George, bapt. 9 July 1551; bur. 27 Jan. 1597/8, as George Gawkroger als Plats; m. 27 Sept. 1574, Anne King.
10. Edmund, bapt. 1 Dec. 1555; living in 1582; m. Grace Hill; she was called Grace Gawkroger in the will of her brother Charles Hill.
11. Grace, bapt. 4 Sept. 1558; living in 1569; perhaps m. 25 Oct. 1580, Daniel Foxcroft.

3. JOHN⁵ GAWKROGER (Richard⁴, John³, Richard², John¹) was born about 1538; married, first, - - -, as appears from English land records (Feet of Fines) in 1576. She was probably the person mentioned in the following burial record: 1577, Feb. 11: Wife of John Gawkroger, Sowerby. He married, second, 29 Nov. 1579, Isabella Dobson:

Children, baptized at Halifax:

12. Frances⁶, bapt. 16 May 1574; m. 14 Nov. 1598, Thomas Fletcher.
13. Bridget, bapt. 4 Mar. 1575/6, as dau. of John Platts.

Children by the second wife:

14. John, bapt. 23 Oct. 1580.
15. Abram (or Abraham), bapt. 23 Oct. 1580.

4. JAMES⁵ GAWKROGER (Richard⁴, John³, Richard², John¹), born perhaps about 1540, in Sowerby, Halifax; resided chiefly in Sowerby, but was of Skircoat in 1590, when his daughter Priscilla was baptized, according to the Halifax Parish Records. He married, 2 Dec. 1571, Jenet (or Joan) Fairbank. He was buried 22 March 1591/2. He left no will and there are no records relating to the settlement of his estate.

Children:

16. Sarah⁶, bapt. 26 Dec. 1572; probably m. Samuel Holgate, 11 Sept. 1578.
17. Abram (or Abraham), bapt. 21 Nov. 1574. #
18. Isaac, bapt. 9 Sept. 1576; he was of Ovenden, Halifax, 30 June 1606, when he married Mary Moore; he was bur. at Ovenden, 22 March 1633; his widow, Mary, was bur. 2 March 1640/1.
19. James, bapt. 7 Sept. 1578. #
20. Judith, bapt. 29 Aug. 1580; probably m. William Oldfield, 9 Oct. 1609.
21. Samuel, bapt. 24 Feb. 1582/3; married.
22. Priscilla, bapt. 25 Jan. 1589/90, as dau. of James Gawkroger of Skircoat; bur. 17 Nov. 1592, as dau. of James Platts of Sowerby.
17. ABRAHAM⁶ GAWKROGER (James⁵, Richard⁴, John³, Richard², John¹) bapt. 21 Nov. 1574, at Halifax; he probably married, second, 10 May 1605, Martha Riley, baptized 27 March 1579/80, daughter of Thomas Riley of Sowerby, Halifax. She was of Warley, Halifax, in 1605. Abraham was of Warley, 15 May 1625, when he was buried. His widow, of Halifax, was buried 12 April 1627. He was of Warley when his daughters Mary and Anna were baptized. The name of his first wife is not found.

Children:

23. Mary⁷, bapt. 7 Feb. 1612/3; married John Prescott, 11 Apr. 1629.
 24. Anna, bapt. 24 Feb. 1614/5.
 25. Sarah, bur. 15 June 1622, when her father was of Warley.
- (Other children were perhaps: Abram, bapt. lacking; Martha, b. 1608; d.y.; Martha, b. 1622).

19. JAMES⁶ GAWKROGER (James⁵, Richard⁴, John³, Richard², John¹), bapt. 7 Sept. 1578, at Halifax, England; married there, 5 Sept. 1601, Martha Ainsworth. He is described as a clothier in his will, dated 15 April 1625, proved 6 October 1625. He was buried 18 April 1625. He mentioned his wife Martha and eleven children including his son Samuel who afterwards emigrated to New England. His widow was buried, 10 Dec. 1632.

According to the report made to Mr. John Barber White, the son Samuel was baptized 19 Jan. 1616/17. The record has been examined by the Curate of Halifax Parish and by Miss Joyce Atkinson, genealogical expert of Yorkshire. By their statements the child's name was Sarah and the baptismal date was 26 January 1616/17. An older Sarah was baptized 1 Oct. 1615. Samuel was born before 1620, for his younger brother Isaac was baptized 2 July 1620. James, the father, in his will, names the sons in the following order: John, James, Abraham, Samuel and Isaacke. Therefore the date of Samuel's baptism is unknown.

Children born at Halifax, England:

26. John⁷, bapt. 3 Jan. 1601/2; perhaps he was the John Gawkroger who m. 24 May 1625, Sarah Soothill (Elland record). This John or another, m. 9 Oct. 1628, Mary Riley.

27. Anna (or Anne), bapt. 4 Sept. 1603; was mentioned in her father's will, 1625.

28. Lydia, bapt. 28 Apr. 1605; m. 5 Sept. 1642, as his second wife, Jonas Gawkroger, son of John and Susan (Tattersall) Gawkroger, bapt. 18 Dec. 1603.

29. Mary, bapt. 19 March 1606/7; m. as his second wife, Richard Eccles. She died 23 Aug. 1675, at Cambridge, Mass.

30. James, bapt. 25 May 1609; m. 24 May 1636, Mary Fairbank of Norland. He was probably the James Platts who was buried 8 Mar. 1666/7. His widow, Mary, was bur. 16 Jan. 1671/2. He had one eye.
31. Abram (or Abraham), bapt. 22 Dec. 1611; probably m. 1 June 1635, Judith Brigge of Halifax.
32. Martha, bapt. 6 Mar. 1613/4; mentioned in her father's will, 1625.
33. Sarah, bapt. 1 Oct. 1615; d.y. if parish records are correct; no burial record found.
34. Sarah, bapt. 26 Jan. 1616/17, if Halifax Parish Records are correct; m. 3 July 1654, at Watertown, Mass., Joseph Childs. (Probably came to New England in 1652).
35. Samuel, b. prob. 1618 or 1619; m. Sarah - - -. (See The History of Rowley, Massachusetts). He used the name Platts in America.
36. Isaac, bapt. 2 July 1620; living in 1625.
37. Esther, bapt. 12 Mar. 1622/3; living in 1625.

REFERENCES

- Halifax, England, Parish Records.
- Pope, Pioneers of Massachusetts, p. 254.
- Account of Richard Jackson.
- Bond, History of Watertown, 155 .
- (Joseph Childs' Record)
- Paige, History of Cambridge
- (Richard Eccles and Richard Jackson)

* * * * *

Mr. Clarence A. Torrey has very kindly pointed out to the writer that the wife of John Prescott of Lancaster, Massachusetts, was not the Mary Gawkroger, daughter of James and Martha (Ainsworth) Gawkroger, who was baptized at Sowerby, Halifax Parish, co. York, 19 March 1606/7. This Mary Gawkroger married as his second wife, Richard Eccles of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and she died there, 23 August 1675 (three years before Mary (Gawkroger) Prescott's deposition).

** The clue to John Prescott's wife is revealed by the deposition she made in 1678, at which time she gave her age as 66 years or thereabouts (N.E.H.G. Register, vol. 95 (1941), page 8). In other words, John Prescott's wife was born in or about the year 1612.

About twenty years ago, Mr. Torrey was engaged in the search for the baptism, birthplace and parentage of Jonathan Platts of Rowley, Massachusetts, - an ancestor of his. Between 1580 and 1630, Gawkroger, Platts and Gawkroger-Platts were interchangeable surnames for members of the same family. Platts is the name now used in America, but in Yorkshire - Gawkroger was commonly used. In the course of working out his Platts record, Mr. Torrey accumulated a great deal of material concerning this family.

** Fortunately, Mr. Torrey discovered the correct Mary Gawkroger Prescott. She was baptized at Sowerby, 7 February 1612/3, the daughter of Abram and Martha (Riley) Gawkroger, and she married at Sowerby, 11 April 1629, John Prescott, later the Founder of Lancaster, Massachusetts. She doubtless died there soon after 1678.

The will of Abram Gawkroger, who died in 1625, has not been found. On the other hand, there are quite full details regarding this family. The two Marys were own cousins, daughters respectively of James and Martha (Ainsworth) Gawkroger and of Abram and Martha (Riley) Gawkroger.

** It is obvious, therefore, that the Mary Gawkroger, baptized at

** Sowerby, 7 February 1612/3, is the one who married John Prescott, since her date of birth, 1612, corresponds exactly with the age of Mary Prescott as given in her own deposition.

A list of the contemporary Mary Gawkrogers in Halifax Parish:

- ** (1) Mary, bapt. 1612/3; m. 1629, John Prescott.
(2) Mary, bapt. 1606/7; m. Richard Eccles; she d. Cambridge in 1675.
(3) Mary, bapt. 1608; m. William Summerscales.
(4) Mary (Fairbank) Gawkroger, of Norland, d. 1671/2, a widow.
(5) Mary (Riley) m. 9 Oct. 1628, John Gawkroger.

** Hence all known evidence indicates that Mary Gawkroger, who was baptized at Sowerby, 7 February 1612/3, and married there, 11 April 1629, was the wife of John Prescott, later of Lancaster, Massachusetts.

Two other Mary Gawkrogers appear on the Halifax Parish Registers, of whom one is too old and the other too young to be considered.

(6) Mary, bapt. 12 Apr. 1590, dau. of Abram and Grace (Chadwick) Gawkroger, of Norland, Elland Parish.

(7) Mary, bapt. 6 March 1630, dau. of Abraham and Mary (Strickland) Gawkroger, of Ovenden in Halifax Parish.

Mr. Torrey has also kindly furnished the writer with twenty-eight other baptisms, marriages and burials from the Halifax Parish Registers. Several of these have been cited above. The others are not pertinent to the present search. F.L.W.

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